

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 NEA-14 SAM-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 EB-11 OPR-02 M-02 A-01 DRC-01

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6882

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 4301

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU, GR, NATO

SUBJ: SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS PRESS CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS

1. SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY ABOUT CYPRUS AT 1500 BRUSSELS TIME 1400 GMT). HE MADE AN OPENING STATEMENT IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED NATO'S ROLE IN THE CRISIS, THEN RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS.

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2. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS:

(A) HE NOTED THE SATIFFACTION AND GRATIFICATION WHICH

HE FELT AND WHICH THE NATO COUNTRIES FELT ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ATHENS. HE SAID HE KNOWS KARAMANLIS WELL AND IS HAPPY HE HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESIDING OVER THE DESTINY OF THE HELLENIC PEOPLES;

(B) HE SAID THAT HIS WATCHING BRIEF HAD PERMITTED QUICK, DIRECT, HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND TURKEY;

(C) HE STATED THAT SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS -- THE UN, COMMON MARKET AND NATO -- AND QUITE A FEW GOVERNMENTS HAD PLAYED MAJOR ROLES IN THE CYPRUS CRISIS;

(D) OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH DEALT WITH THE CRISIS, HE WISHED TO MENTION PARTICULARLY THE ROLE OF THE U.S. AND THE U.K. WITH REGARD TO THE U.S., HE SAID THAT ITS INFLUENCE HAS BEEN STRONG AND THAT THE U.S. HAS KEPT HIM FULLY INFORMED, INCLUDING OF HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE U.K. AND PARTICULARLY ITS FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD ACTED WITH PRUDENCE AND ENERGY AND WHERE NECESSARY (EVACUATION) WITH SPEED;

(E) HE SAID THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMON MARKET COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD PLAYED QUITE AN IMPORTANT ROLE;

(F) WITH REGARD TO HIS OWN ACTIONS UNDER HIS WATCHING BRIEF, HE MENTIONED HIS TALKS IN LONDON WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND THE PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, MR. BRIMELOW, AND ALSO NOTED HIS MANY TELEPHONIC CONTACTS WITH CAPITALS;

(G) HE THEN DESCRIBED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE COUNCIL, MAKING SEVERAL KEY POINTS: DURING THE CRISIS PERIOD THE COUNCIL HAD HELD TEN SPECIAL SESSIONS, INCLUDING TWO NIGHT SESSIONS; IT PROVED TO BE A FORUM FOR RAPID CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES
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OF INFORMATION; IT (AND THE NUMEROUS LESS FORMAL, SMALL-GROUP MEETINGS HELD) HAD PROVIDED A HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION WHICH PROVIDED A CHANNEL FOR GETTING THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER ALLIES TO GREECE AND TURKEY AND VICE-VERSA; IT HAD SERVED AS A FORUM FOR COORDINATING THE ALLIANCE'S POSITION ON THE CYPRUS CRISIS AND FOR GETTING SPEEDY REPLIES FROM ALL CONCERNED WHEN THESE WERE NEEDED;

(I) HE SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD AS EFFICIENT CONSULTATIONS WITH SO MANY NATIONS WITHOUT THE NAC FACILITIES. WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND NATIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE OUTCOME, IN THE CRISIS NATO HAD PROVED TO BE A VERY USEFUL FORUM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE MADE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS:

(A) WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT AT THIS MOMENT NATO'S MILITARY STRENGTH ON ITS SOUTHEASTERN FLANK IS CERTAINLY SOMEWHAT WEAKER, HE HAS EVERY HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT VERY SHORTLY THIS SLIGHT WEAKENESS WILL END;

(B) IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. SHARES THE GENERAL SATISFACTION OF THE ALLIES AT THE CHANGE OVER IN ATHENS;

(C) ON JULY 17 WHEN A "HIGH NATO SOURCE" (KASTL) STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN "BROAD SUPPORT" FOR THE BRITISH INITIATIVE, THE U.S. PREFERRED THAT ITS POSITION AND THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES NOT BE MADE KNOWN AT THAT TIME BECAUSE IT WAS MAKING REPRESENTATIONS JUST THEN IN ANKARA AND ATHENS;

(D) THE CHANGE TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN ATHENS SHOULD HELP NATO WITH PUBLIC OPINION IN NATO COUNTRIES;

(E) NATO AND ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES HAD TAKEN MANY STEPS TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE GREECE AND TURKEY TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT OVER THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN;

(F) WHILE GREECE AND TURKEY HELD NO DIRECT DISCUSSION DURING THE CRISIS, THEIR EXCHANGES IN THE COUNCIL WERE LESS UNCLASSIFIED

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EMOTIONAL THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A PUBLIC FORUM SUCH AS THE UN;

(G) WITH REGARD TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, HE EXPECTS THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, UNDER THE CONSULTATION PROCEDURES CALLED FOR IN THE DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS, TO INFORM THE COUNCIL OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND ASK FOR THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER NATIONS;

(H) AFTER THE 1967 CYPRUS CRISIS IN WHICH NATO HAD PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IMPROVED. THERE HAD BEEN A SUDDEN DETERIORATION RECENTLY IN THOSE RELATIONS AND HE HOPES, AS IN THE PAST, THAT NATO WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THESE RELATIONS. RUMSFELD

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USIA
ALL NATO CAPITALS
ANKARA
ATHENS
NICOSIA
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USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
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COMSIXTHFLT
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CINCUSNAVEUR

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